GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2259
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
OBSERVATION MADE BY WORLD BANK ON LITERACY
DUKHA BHAGAT;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has made any observation about literacy in India in its report;

(b) if so, the points mentioned in the said report;

(c) whether the Government urged the State Governments to examine this report and take necessary steps to improve their literacy rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which success has been achieved by the Government after taking steps to remove shortcomings found during the examination of the report?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) &(b) The World Bank has made observations about literacy in India in its report entitled `Poverty in India-The Challenge of Uttar Pradesh`. The report states that according to the 2001 Census Report, in Uttar Pradesh,literacy has increased by nearly 17 percentage points between 1991 & 2001. Despite this, there still exits a substantial number of illiterates and there is need to bridge the gender gap in literacy.

(c), (d) & (e) The Government have already steps to improve the literacy rate as under:-

i) A new scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) hasbeen started for Universalization of Elementary Education in a mission mode with a district focus. SSA is to provide useful and relevant Elementary Education for all children in the 6-14 age group by 2010. The goals are as follows:

- All children in school, Education Guarantee Scheme Center, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camps by 2003.
- All children complete five years primary education by 2007.
- All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
- Bridge all gender and social gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.
- Universal retention by 2010.

National Literacy Mission (NLM) seeks to attain full literacy, i.e. a sustainable threshold level of 75 percentby 2005. It seeks to achieve this goal by imparting functional literacy to non-literates in 15-35 year age group. Major thrust of the programme is on promotion of literacy among women.